GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:560
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2003
ERNET
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC and AICTE have entered into an agreement with the Department of Information Technology to link various Universities and Engineering Colleges under the Education and Research Network (ERNET) India;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme including the criterion for selection of participating institutions; and

(c) the details of the universities and colleges that have already joined the scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.560 DATE 29.4.2003 ASKED BY SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL, M.P. REGARDING ERNET

(a) to (c): According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ERNET India, an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, for the purpose of providing internet connectivity to all the eligible Universities and Colleges in the country under the UGC- Infonet Scheme. The scheme aims at providing for requisite infrastructure including computers and laying of cables for linking up to the network. UGC has requested all the universities recognized under Section 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act to submit their proposals for entering into a quadripartite agreement among the UGC, ERNET, Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) and the University. Under the scheme, 90% of the total cost of the infrastructure is borne by UGC whereas the remaining 10% is taken care of by the respective institution. However, the entire recurring expenditure on connectivity is borne by UGC for a period of 5 years. A total 77 Universities have entered into the quadripartite agreement so far.

The AICTE has also signed an MOU with ERNET India to provide internet connectivity to the AICTE approved technical institutions. Under this scheme, the AICTE provides an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs or actual expenditure, whichever is less, to the Govt./Govt.-aided institutions for this purpose. For self-financing private institutions, the amount is limited to Rs.5.00 lakhs or 50% of the actual expenditure, whichever is less. The connectivity is provided by ERNET. The number of institutions covered under the scheme during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 was 14 and 34 respectively.